

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL
WASHINGTON

TOP SECRET

April 23, 1959

MEMORANDUM FOR THE NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

SUBJECT: Studies of Military and Non-Military
Counter-measures in the Berlin Crisis

REFERENCE: Memorandum for the President from the Acting Secretary of State, same subject, dated April 18, 1959

The following actions were taken at the special meeting of the National Security Council which you attended in the Conference Room of The White House on Thursday, April 23, 1959, from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m., immediately preceding the regular NSC meeting on that date:

1. Noted and discussed the two studies prepared at the direction of the President and enclosed with the reference memorandum for the President.
2. Noted that the President has previously approved the transmission of the studies to General Norstad for his use in preparing preliminary U. S. positions in the Tripartite Staff in Paris.
3. Noted the President's view that, with respect to the study of military measures, any advance planning regarding the alternative uses of force would necessarily be subject to review and decision in the light of circumstances as they develop.
4. Agreed that the studies in their present form should not be transmitted to our allies, and that any disclosures to our allies with respect to these studies should be deferred pending further study under 6-c below.
5. Noted the President's approval, subject to the above cautions, of the utilization of the study of alternative courses of action regarding use of force by the Department of Defense as a basis for the initial planning of measures to be taken on a national basis.

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6. Noted the President's approval in principle of the studies for use in further planning under the coordination of a group to be chaired by Mr. Robert Murphy, Deputy Under Secretary of State, with representatives from the Department of Defense, the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the Central Intelligence Agency, and the Special Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs, and, as necessary on an ad hoc basis, other agencies. Specifically, this group should, in the light of the discussion at this special meeting, coordinate such further planning, including:
 - a. The results of the planning by the Department of Defense pursuant to 5 above.
 - b. The development of general political, economic and military measures as outlined in these studies, with particular reference to selection and timing, referring major decisions for the President's approval as they become necessary.
 - c. Recommendations as to the disclosure to our allies of information contained in the studies.

The above actions, as approved this date by the President, are transmitted herewith for appropriate implementation of paragraphs 5 and 6 above; with periodic progress reports by the group referred to in paragraph 6 being submitted to the President.

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JAMES S. LAY, JR.
Executive Secretary

cc: The Secretary of the Treasury
The Attorney General
The Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff
The Director of Central Intelligence